

IN THE CLAIMS

Applicant hereby presents the claims, their status in the application, and amendments thereto as indicated:

1. (currently amended) A holster for a tool of the type comprising a body portion and a handle portion which projects from the body portion in a direction generally perpendicular to the central axis of the body portion characterized in that the holster comprises a tubular body portion having open top and bottom ends sized to receive the body portion of a tool, the tubular body portion having an elongate cutaway section extending along at least 50% of the length of the tubular body portion from the top edge and sized to receive the handle of the tool, and means for attachment of the holster to a user including a flexible loop, the loop having a lower portion affixed to the tubular body portion, an upper portion that is attachable to the user, and a middle portion which remains flexible and allows the holster to maintain a vertical or substantially vertical alignment when attached to the user.

2. (original) A holster according to claim 1 wherein the tubular body portion is rigid or substantially rigid.

3. (currently amended) A holster according to claim 1 wherein the cutaway section extends for at least 75%[, preferably at least 80%, more preferably at least 90% of he] of the length of the tubular body portion.

4. (previously amended) A holster according to claim 1 wherein the cutaway section extends for at least 80% of the length of the tubular body portion.

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5. (original) A holster according to claim 1 wherein the cutaway section is provided with a notch on its lower edge.
6. (previously amended) A holster according to claim 1 wherein the cutaway section extends for at least 90% of the length of the tubular body portion.
7. (cancelled)
8. (new) A holster for a tool of the type comprising a body portion and a handle portion which projects from the body portion in a direction generally perpendicular to the central axis of the body portion characterized in that the holster comprises a tubular body portion having open top and bottom ends sized to receive the body portion of a tool, the tubular body portion having an elongate cutaway section extending along at least 50% of the length of the tubular body portion from the top edge and sized to receive the handle of the tool, and means for attachment of the holster to a user (including only one flexible loop) which allows the holster to maintain a vertical or substantially vertical alignment when attached to the user.
9. (new) A holster according to claim 8 wherein the tubular body portion is rigid or substantially rigid.
10. (new) A holster according to claim 8 wherein the cutaway section extends for at least 75% of the length of the tubular body portion.
11. (new) A holster according to claim 8 wherein the cutaway section extends for at least 80% of the length of the tubular body portion.

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12. (new) A holster according to claim 8 wherein the cutaway section is provided with a notch on its lower edge.
13. (new) A holster according to claim 8 wherein the cutaway section extends for at least 90% of the length of the tubular body portion.

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